WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An electronic notary system comprising a notary server and first and second terminal apparatuses capable of performing network communication with said notary server,

said first terminal including

unique message generating means for generating message data unique to an electronic file designated by a user from the electronic file,

input means for inputting first user identification information for identifying the user, and

first terminal-side communication means for communicating with said notary server by establishing a communication link thereto by using second user identification information provided in advance from said notary server, transmitting at least the message data and first user identification information input from said input means to said notary server, and receiving a registration key,

said notary server including

first storage means for storing the first user identification information of the user and the second user identification information provided for the user in advance in correspondence with each other,

first communication means for communicating with said first terminal-side communication means by

establishing a communication link thereto when the
second user identification information sent from said
first terminal-side communication means coincides with
the second user identification information stored in
said first storage means,

registration key generating means for generating
a registration key upon reception of message data
from said first terminal apparatus through said first
communication means, and transmitting the registration
key to said first terminal apparatus through said first
communication means, and

second storage means for storing the message data
received through said first communication means in
correspondence with at least the registration key and
date information when the first user identification
information received through said first communication
means coincides with the first user identification
information stored in said first storage means,

said second terminal apparatus including

unique message generating means for generating
message data unique to an electronic file from the
electronic file, and

second terminal-side communication means for
communicating with said notary server by establishing
a communication link thereto, transmitting at least the
message data and a registration key to said notary
server, and

said notary server including

second communication means for communicating with said second terminal-side communication means by establishing a communication link thereto, and

5   notary information generating means for, when the message data received through said second communication means coincides with message data stored in said second storage means and corresponding to a registration key received through said second communication means,

10   generating notary information for certifying coincidence of the message data, and transmitting the notary information to said second terminal apparatus through said second communication means.

2.   A system according to claim 1, wherein

15   said first terminal apparatus comprises transcript generating means for generating transcript information by integrating an electronic file designated by a user, message data generated on the basis of the electronic file, and a registration key corresponding to the

20   electronic file, and transmitting the transcript information to said notary server through said first terminal-side communication means,

said notary server comprises

request key generating means for generating a

25   request key in correspondence with information included in the transcript information received through said first communication means, and

third storage means for storing the electronic
file included in the transcript information as a
transcript file in correspondence with the request key
when the message data included in the transcript

5   information received through said first communication
means coincides with message data stored in said second
storage means and corresponding to the registration key
included in the transcript information, and the first
user identification information received through said

10   first communication means coincides with the first user
identification information stored in said first storage
means,

said second terminal apparatus comprises
transcript request means for generating transcript

15   request information including a request key and
transmitting the transcript request information to said
notary server through said second terminal-side
communication means, and

said notary server comprises transcript file

20   transmission control means for reading out an
electronic file corresponding to the request key
included in the transcript request information received
through said second communication means from said third
storage means, and transmitting the electronic file to

25   said second terminal apparatus through said second
communication means.

3.   An electronic notary system comprising

a notary server and first and second terminal

apparatuses capable of performing network communication

with said notary server,

said first terminal apparatus including

input means for inputting first user

identification information for identifying the user,

transcript generating means for generating

transcript information including an electronic file

designated by the user, and

first terminal-side communication means for

communicating with said notary server by establishing

a communication link thereto by using second user

identification information provided in advance from

said notary server, and transmitting at least the

transcript information and first user identification

information input from said input means to said notary

server,

said notary server including

first storage means for storing the first user

identification information of the user and the second

user identification information provided for the user

in advance in correspondence with each other,

first communication means for communicating with

said first terminal-side communication means by

establishing a communication link thereto when the

second user identification information sent from said

first terminal-side communication means coincides with

the second user identification information stored in
said first storage means,

request key generating means for generating
a request key in correspondence with the electronic
file included in the transcript information received
through said first communication means, and

third storage means for storing the electronic
file included in the transcript information as
a transcript file in correspondence with at least
the request key and date information when the first
user identification information received through said
first communication means coincides with the first user
identification information stored in said first storage
means,

said second terminal apparatus including

second terminal-side communication means for
communicating with said notary server by establishing
a communication link thereto, and

transcript request means for generating transcript
request information including a request key and
transmitting the transcript request information to said
notary server through said second terminal-side
communication means, and

said notary server including

second communication means for communicating with
said second terminal-side communication means by
establishing a communication link thereto, and

transcript file transmission control means for reading out an electronic file corresponding to the request key included in the transcript request information received through said second communication means from said third storage means, and transmitting the electronic file to said second terminal apparatus through said second communication means.

4. A system according to claim 2 or 3, wherein said system further comprises a Web server which is located on the network and has a Web site from which the request key can be acquired, and

said notary server comprises URL information notification means for transmitting by electronic mail URL information of the Web site to an electronic mail address designated by said first terminal apparatus.

5. A system according to claim 2 or 3, wherein said system further comprises fourth storage means for, when said transcript file transmission control means transmits an electronic file to said second terminal apparatus, storing at least one of a time when transcript request information is received from said second terminal apparatus and a time when the electronic file is transmitted to said second terminal apparatus.

6. A system according to claim 1, wherein the first user identification information is biometric information of the user.

7. A system according to claim 3, wherein the first user identification information is biometric information of the user.

8. An electronic notary system comprising a notary server and a terminal apparatus capable of performing network communication with said notary server,

said terminal apparatus including

unique message generating means for generating message data unique to an electronic file designated by a user from the electronic file,

input means for inputting first user identification information for identifying the user, and

terminal-side communication means for communicating with said notary server by establishing a communication link thereto by using second user identification information provided in advance from said notary server, transmitting at least the message data and first user identification information input from said input means to said notary server, and receiving a registration key,

said notary server including

first storage means for storing the first user identification information of the user and the second user identification information provided for the user in advance in correspondence with each other,

communication means for communicating with said

terminal-side communication means by establishing

a communication link thereto when the second user

identification information sent from said terminal-side

5   communication means coincides with the second user

identification information stored in said first storage

means,

     registration key generating means for generating

a registration key upon reception of message data from

10   said terminal apparatus through said communication

means, and transmitting the registration key to

said terminal apparatus through said communication

means, and

     second storage means for storing the message

15   data received through said communication means in

correspondence with at least the registration key and

date information when the first user identification

information received through said communication means

coincides with the first user identification

20   information stored in said first storage means.

     9. An electronic notary system comprising

a notary server and a terminal apparatus capable of

performing network communication with said notary

server,

25   said terminal apparatus including

     unique message generating means for generating

message data unique to an electronic file from the

electronic file, and

terminal-side communication means for
communicating with said notary server by establishing
a communication link thereto, and transmitting at least
the message data and a registration key to said notary
server, and

said notary server including

storage means for storing the message data of the
electronic file in correspondence with at least the
registration key and date information,

communication means for communicating with said
terminal-side communication means by establishing
a communication link thereto, and

notary information generating means for, when the
message data received through said communication means
coincides with message data stored in said storage
means and corresponding to a registration key received
through said communication means, generating notary
information for certifying coincidence of the message
data, and transmitting the notary information to said
terminal apparatus through said communication means.

10. An electronic notary system comprising
a notary server and a terminal apparatus capable of
performing network communication with said notary
server,

said terminal apparatus including
input means for inputting first user

identification information for identifying the user,

transcript generating means for generating
transcript information including an electronic file
designated by the user, and

5   terminal-side communication means for
communicating with said notary server by establishing
a communication link thereto by using second user
identification information provided in advance from
said notary server, and transmitting at least the

10   transcript information and first user identification
information input from said input means to said notary
server,

said notary server including

first storage means for storing the first user

15   identification information of the user and the second
user identification information provided for the user
in advance in correspondence with each other,

communication means for communicating with said
terminal-side communication means by establishing

20   a communication link thereto when the second user
identification information sent from said terminal-side
communication means coincides with the second user
identification information stored in said first storage
means,

25   request key generating means for generating a
request key in correspondence with the electronic file
included in the transcript information received through

said communication means, and

second storage means for storing the electronic file included in the transcript information as a transcript file in correspondence with at least the request key and date information when the first user identification information received through said communication means coincides with the first user identification information stored in said first storage means.

11. An electronic notary system comprising a notary server and a terminal apparatus capable of performing network communication with said notary server,

said terminal apparatus including

terminal-side communication means for communicating with said notary server by establishing a communication link thereto, and

transcript request means for generating transcript request information including a request key and transmitting the transcript request information to said notary server through said terminal-side communication means,

said notary server including

storage means for storing an electronic file as a transcript file in correspondence with at least a request key and date information,

communication means for communicating with said

terminal-side communication means by establishing

a communication link thereto, and

transcript file transmission control means for

reading out an electronic file corresponding to

5   the request key included in the transcript request

information received through said communication

means from said storage means, and transmitting

the electronic file to said terminal apparatus through

said communication means.

10   12.   An electronic notary method used for

an electronic notary system including a notary server

and first and second terminal apparatuses capable of

performing network communication with the notary

server, comprising:

15   the first storage step of causing the notary

server to store first identification information of

a user of the first terminal apparatus and second user

identification information given to the user in advance

in correspondence with each other;

20   the unique message generating step of causing the

first terminal apparatus to generate message data

unique to an electronic file designated by the user

from the electronic file;

the reception step of causing the first terminal

25   apparatus to receive first user identification

information for identifying the user;

the first communication link establishing step of

causing the first terminal apparatus to transmit second
user identification information, which is provided from
the notary server in advance, to the notary server and
establish the first communication link between the

5   first terminal apparatus and the notary server when the
second user identification information coincides with
the second user identification information stored in
the first storage step in the notary sever;

the notary registration request step of causing

10   the first terminal apparatus to transmit at least the
message data generated in the unique message generating
step and the first user identification information
received in the reception step to the notary server
through the first communication link;

15   the registration key generating step of causing
the notary server to generate a registration key upon
reception of the message data from the first terminal
apparatus through the first communication link and
transmit the registration key to the first terminal

20   apparatus through the first communication link;

the second storage step of causing the notary
server to store the message data received through the
first communication link in correspondence with at
least the registration key and date information when

25   the first user identification information received
through the first communication link coincides with the
first user identification information stored in the

first storage step;

the unique message generating step of causing the second terminal apparatus to generate message data unique to an electronic file from the electronic file;

the second communication link establishing step of causing the second terminal apparatus to perform communication by establishing a second communication link between the second terminal apparatus and the notary server;

the notarization request step of causing the second terminal apparatus to transmit at least the message data and a registration key to the notary server through the second communication link; and

the notary information generating step of causing the notary server to, when the message data received through the second communication link coincides with the message data stored in the second storage step and corresponding to the registration key received through the second communication link, generate notary information certifying the coincidence and transmit the notary information to the second terminal apparatus through the second communication link.

13. A method according to claim 12, wherein said method further comprises:

the transcript generating step of causing the first terminal apparatus to generate transcript information by integrating an electronic file

designated by a user, message data generated on the

basis of the electronic file, and a registration key

corresponding to the electronic file and transmit the

transcript information to the notary server through the

5   first communication link;

the request key generating step of causing

the notary server to generate a request key in

correspondence with information included in the

transcript information received through the first

10   communication link;

the third storage step of causing the notary

server to store an electronic file included in the

transcript information corresponding to the request key

when the message data included in the transcript

15   information received through the first communication

link coincides with the message data stored in the

second storage step and corresponding to the

registration key included in the transcript

information, and the first user identification

20   information received through the first communication

link coincides with the first user identification

information stored in the first storage step;

the transcript request step of causing the second

terminal apparatus to generate transcript request

25   information included in the request key and transmit

the transcript request information to the notary

server; and

the transcript file transmission step of causing
the notary sever to read out the electronic file
corresponding to the request key included in the
transcript request information received by the second
5   terminal apparatus from the information stored in the
third storage step and transmit the electronic file to
the second terminal apparatus.

14. An electronic notary method used for an
electronic notary system including a notary server and
10   first and second terminal apparatuses capable of
performing network communication with the notary
server, comprising:

the first storage step of causing the notary
server to store first user identification information
15   of a user of the first terminal apparatus in
correspondence with second user identification
information provided for the user in advance;

the reception step of causing the first terminal
apparatus to receive the first user identification
20   information for identifying the user;

the transcript generating step of causing the
first terminal apparatus to generate transcript
information including an electronic file designated by
a user;

25   the first communication link establishing step of
causing the first terminal apparatus to transmit the
second user identification information provided from

the notary server in advance to the notary server and
establish the first communication link between the
first terminal apparatus and the notary server when the
second user identification information coincides with
5   the second user identification information stored in
the first storage step in the notary server;

the transcript registration request step of
causing the first terminal apparatus to transmit at
least the transcript information generated in the
10   transcript generating step and the first user
identification information received in the reception
step to the notary server through the first
communication link;

the request key generating step of causing the
15   notary server to generate a request key upon receiving
the transcript information from the first terminal
apparatus through the first communication link;

the third storage step of causing the notary
server to store the electronic file included in the
20   transcript information as a transcript file in
correspondence with at least the request key and date
information when the first user identification
information received through the first communication
link coincides with the first user identification
25   information stored in the first storage step;

the second communication link establishing step of
performing communication by establishing a second

communication link between the second terminal apparatus and the notary server;

the transcript request step of causing the second terminal apparatus to generate transcript request information included in a request key and transmit the transcript request information to the notary server through said second communication link; and

the transcript file transmission step of causing the notary server to read out an electronic file corresponding to the request key included in the transcript request information received through the second communication link from the information stored in the third storage step and transmit the electronic file to the second terminal apparatus through the second communication link.

15. A method according to claim 13 or 14, wherein a Web server having a Web site from which the request key can be acquired is prepared on the network, and

the method further comprises the URL information notification step of causing the notary server to transmit by electronic mail URL information of the Web site to an electronic mail address designated by the first terminal apparatus.

16. A method according to claim 13 or 14, wherein said method further comprises the fourth storage step of, when an electronic file is transmitted to

the second terminal apparatus in the transcript file

transmission step, storing at least one of a time

when transcript request information is received

from the second terminal apparatus and a time when

5 the electronic file is transmitted to the second

terminal apparatus.

  17. A method according to claim 12, wherein the

first user identification information is biometric

information of the user.

10 18. A method according to claim 14, wherein the

first user identification information is biometric

information of the user.